

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT L 00396 011002Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 OES-07 IO-13 EB-08 AGRE-00 AID-05 ACDA-12
/116 W

-----074561 012127Z /65

R 311105Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7409
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
CINCPAC
CINCUSNAVEUR
COMIDEASTFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0396

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MP
SUBJECT: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW -- MARCH 31 -- SUMMARY

REF: (A) PORT LOUIS 0371 (DTG 241031Z MAR 78)
(B) PORT LOUIS A-25, MARCH 31, 1978

1. CONSIDERABLE SUSPENSE SURROUNDED THE OPENING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE CURRENT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON MARCH 28, AS THERE WAS DOUBT WHETHER THE LABOR PARTY'S DISSIDENT "BOODHOO GROUP" OF FIVE YOUNG DEPUTIES WOULD SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT IN CRUCIAL VOTES TO SELECT THE DEPUTY SPEAKER AND THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES. A SERIES OF MEETINGS DURING THE PREVIOUS WEEK BETWEEN THE DISSIDENTS AND THE PARTY LEADERSHIP UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT L 00396 011002Z

OF PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM HAD FAILED TO RESOLVE THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CONTESTING FACTIONS, AND THE BOODHOO GROUP WENT SO FAR AS TO BOYCOTT A MEETING OF THE LABOR PARLIAMENTARY GROUP ON THE EVE OF THE ASSEMBLY OPENING. THEY ALSO BOYCOTTED THE TRADITIONAL SPEECH FROM THE THRONE CEREMONY, AS DID THE OPPOSITION MAURITIAN MILITANT MOVEMENT (MMM).

2. HOWEVER, MUCH TO THE RELIEF OF RAMGOOLAM THE DISSIDENTS VOTED TO SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT'S CANDIDATES FOR THE TWO KEY POSTS AT THE OPENING SESSION OF PARLIAMENT AND A MAJOR POLITICAL CRISIS WAS AVERTED FOR THE TIME BEING. THE DISSIDENTS TOLD THE PRESS THEY HAD DECIDED TO VOTE WITH THE GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE UNITY OF THE LABOR PARTY IN THE FACE OF "THE MMM ENEMY." THEY MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AFTER THE ASSEMBLY SESSION AND IT APPEARS NEGOTIATIONS WILL CONTINUE TO RESOLVE THEIR COMPLAINTS.

3. LE MAURICIEN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED AN ACCOUNT OF THE MARCH 27 LABOR PARTY MEETING WHICH THE DISSIDENTS HAD BOYCOTTED WHICH REVEALED THAT THE DIFFICULTIES CAUSED BY THE BOODHOO GROUP ARE AS SERIOUS AS COMMONLY BELIEVED. ACCORDING TO THE PAPER RAMGOOLAM, FOREIGN MINISTER WALTER AND AGRICULTURE MINISTER BOOLELL ALL OFFERED (OR THREATENED) TO RESIGN IF IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO RESOLUTION OF THE CRISIS. AT THE SAME TIME RAMGOOLAM WAS REPORTED TO BE THOROUGHLY FED UP WITH THE BOODHOO GROUP TO THE EXTENT OF PLANNING TO CLOSE THE DOOR TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WITH THEM. HE SPOKE OF CALLING GENERAL ELECTIONS IF NECESSARY, AND REPORTEDLY SAID HE WOULD NOT GIVE IN TO POLITICAL BLACKMAIL. THE NEWSPAPER COMMENTED THAT GENERAL ELECTIONS ARE HIGHLY UNLIKELY, AS THE LABOR PARTY WOULD BE DEFEATED, SO IT WAS PROBABLE THAT RAMGOOLAM WOULD PLAY OTHER CARDS, SUCH AS TRYING TO FORM A COALITION WITH THE MMM. THIS NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT SO VEXED THE PRIME MINISTER

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT L 00396 011002Z

THAT HE SCHEDULED A PRESS CONFERENCE FOR MARCH 30 TO REFUTE THE REPORTS.

4. THE SPEECH FROM THE THRONE CONTAINED A GREAT MANY PROMISES BUT NOTHING VERY STARTLING. THE IDEA OF HOLDING A REFERENDUM ON TRANSFORMING MAURITIUS INTO A REPUBLIC HEADED THE LIST OF GOVERNMENT PLANS, BUT NO TIME FRAME WAS MENTIONED. STANDARD POSITIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY WERE RESTATED, INCLUDING A COMMITMENT TO MAKING THE INDIAN OCEAN A "ZONE OF PEACE" IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE U.N. RESOLUTION.

KEELEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTL00396
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780142-0873
Format: TEL
From: PORT LOUIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978033/aaaaaceb.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5e0338be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PORT LOUIS 371, 78 PORT LOUIS A-25
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3217179
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAURITIUS WEEKLY REVIEW -- MARCH 31 -- SUMMARY
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5e0338be-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014